

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

-- DEVICE FOR INERTING A VAT FOR CONSUMABLE LIQUID, IN  
PARTICULAR WINE --

On page 1, before line 1, please insert:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/978,055, filed  
November 25, 1997.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

(i) Field of the Invention --;

On page 1, before line 7, please insert:

-- (ii) Description of Related Art --;

On page 1, before line 24, please insert:

-- SUMMARY AND OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION --;

On page 2, before line 37, please insert:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --;

On page 3, before line 7, please insert:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --.

Please cancel the current Abstract on the first page of the specification, and substitute therefor a new Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and device for inerting a vat having an upper wall and containing a consumable liquid and an overhead gas, including the steps of:

injecting an inerting gas heavier than air by way of a downward extending injection tube into the overhead gas above a free surface of the liquid and substantially below the upper wall of the vat and, during this injection,

removing excess gas through the injection tube and a purge orifice of the vat.

The injection tube may have a gas diffuser at its lower end.